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### **CHRISTIAN WORK AT NEW HAMPSHIRE STATE COLLEGE**

Eight hundred and ninety students are registered at New Hampshire State College, located at Durham, N. H., a village of about four hundred population. 63% of the students are church members, 32% express a preference for some church, and 5% have no reference. Of the 95% from religious homes 1% are Jewish, 14% are Roman Catholic, and the remaining 85% are divided among 17 Protestant communions.

The Boards of Education of the Baptist, Congregational, Methodist Episcopal, and Presbyterian denominations jointly with a local Advisory Board for College Christian Work employ an Interchurch Students' Pastor who also acts as secretary of the student Young Men's Christian Association. As Students' Pastor he cooperates in every conceivable way with the pastor and preacher of the one church in the community, historically and legally Congregational but for all practical purposes Community. The Students' Pastor carries responsibility for the pastoral work among the students, both men and women of the four cooperating denominations. (The women comprise 23% of the student body.) This pastoral work involves encouraging church attendance and associate and active membership; promoting active interest in the New Hampshire Young People's Organization of the church; teaching a church Bible Class; pastoral visits to promote spiritual growth and help with personal problems; and home entertainment. The Cosmopolitan Club, made up of the 23 foreign born students was organized this fall at the home of the Students' Pastor. Smaller groups of students are also entertained at tea or dinner when possible although there is no item in the budget covering this expense. Families of the community are beginning to cooperate in this good work by entertaining during vacation periods those students who are unable to reach home. Over twenty students were thus entertained during the Thanksgiving recess.

The Advisory Board for College Christian Work (formerly The Advisory Board of the Y. M. C. A.) maintains and furnishes an office for their employed worker, and adjoining it a Club room for the men of the college. The Community Church and vestry are also used for student work at times.

The annual budget of the Board for Christian Work is \$3250.00, \$2200.00 of which represents salary, and \$470.00 office expense, including stenographic assistance.

The Community Church purposes to be the church home for all of the students. It serves this purpose through the regular service of worship, the N. H. Y. P. O., the Church Bible School, and receptions.

An average of about 100 students attend the one service of worship held each Sunday morning. The college provides no chapel either week-day or Sunday, the one all college gathering held every Wednesday being a Convocation and entirely forensic in character.

The Church Bible School purposes to give to students who desire it a broad and thorough knowledge of the Bible from the historical point of view, an acquaintance with the facts of Church History, Comparative Religion, and Applied Christianity. Three classes meet at present, two for Freshmen and one for Upperclassmen. The enrollment is 40 and the average attendance 16.

The New Hampshire Young People's Organization has as its purpose "to promote an earnest and thoughtful discussion of practical problems; to increase acquaintance among the members, and to make them more useful in Christian service." While the purpose is social, educational and religious, it is primarily religious. The organization is for, of, and by the students. The weekly meetings are held Sundays from 7:00 to 9:00 in the evening, the devotional and discussion part of the program occupy the first three-fourths of the evening and the social portion follows. The average attendance is 70. The methods of this organization are informal and it is determined upon nothing more definite than to keep up its weekly meetings with good discussions and good leadership, usually student and free social contact.

The Young Women's Christian Association is a very active campus organization. Its Advisory Board consists of twelve faculty women, one member for each committee of the student organization. There is a membership of over 100 at present. Among the many activities promoted are: Receptions for new students, regular weekly meetings with able speakers (one meeting a month being devoted to the discussion of a World Fel-

lowship topic; social service in a Neighborhood House in Dover (five miles distant by rail), and sending 15 to 20 girls to the Y. W. C. A. student summer conference. The girls cooperated with the Y. M. C. A. in the last Red Cross Drive. As an instance of their influence, a discussion of the Point System finally resulted in the girls of the college adopting such a plan.

The Young Men's Christian Association has as its purpose "to lead each student to accept Christ's rule in his thought and life, and to cooperate in making His will effective on the campus, in the community and throughout the world." Christian Life and Community Service are the terms that sum up their program. Their work is promoted by a Cabinet made up of one representative from each of the seven fraternities and an equal number of non-fraternity men. Christian Life is actively encouraged by: Student Membership in the Community church of those who are members at home, 125 such members were obtained this year; occasional campus meetings addressed by able Christian statesmen; Y. M. C. A. membership including 50% of the men on the campus; and the attendance of a small group of leaders at the summer conference. Last year discussion groups of Rauschenbusch's "Social Principles" enrolled 150 men, this term the plan is to have a smaller group of men reached but in a more vital way through a Religious Education Class teaching "The History of Our Bible," 70 men have enrolled for such a group. Community Service is encouraged as an expression of Christian faith and conviction. This includes: Reception to new students; publishing a college Handbook; operating an employment bureau giving work to 150 men a year; providing a second hand text book exchange; and helping maintain the Club Room. Outside of the campus this Community Service includes work with boys and deputations which visit adjacent communities speaking of Christianity to Young People's Organizations or conducting entire church services from Doxology to Benediction in a most reverent manner.

Through the leadership of the Students' Pastor a religious clearing house or Christian Council has been formed. This includes representatives officially appointed by all the organizations described in this paper. It meets once a month for prayer

and for the purpose of correlating plans and activities. Through this means it is believed that the Christian forces of the college can present a more united and impressive front and a greater emphasis be placed upon the primal purpose, the development of Christian faith and character.

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### **RELIGIOUS WORK AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN**

#### **I. THE STUDENT CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION.**

The religious work of the churches at Ann Arbor is federated under the Student Christian Association of the University of Michigan. A new charter has recently been adopted. The scope of the work under this comprehensive organization may be summarized as follows:

This plan does not contemplate a separate organization apart from the established denominations or churches, nor does it aim to define Christianity and reduce it to a common basis—the Association becomes merely an aggregation of denominational units wherein the units adhere to their own historic creeds and unite through the Association at Michigan to present a comprehensive religious program to the University students.

Concretely the activities of the Student Christian Association are the summary of the activities of the denominations in Ann Arbor functioning to as large an extent as possible through the local churches in their work among the students.

The officers of the Association are those who record, in the university registration, the fact that they are church members. The student members elect the President for men students and the President for women students. The men members of each denomination elect a Vice President in the annual campus election. The Board of Trustees is made up of church representatives chosen in consultation with the denominational leaders and has also a proportionate representation of men and women. The employed Staff consists of the official denominational workers in Ann Arbor together with the Executive Secretaries for men and women students.

The Treasury of the Association is a clearing house for denominational funds.

The local Ann Arbor ministers are "Honorary Advisors" in the student work.